

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



Information Letter



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Senate Amends Rates in Agricultural Schedule

The Senate, which has been debating amendments to the tariff bill as proposed from the floor, reached the agricultural schedule on Wednesday. Amendments proposed and adopted by the Senate included the following:

Dates: Duty of $7\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound placed on dates in packages weighing with the immediate container not more than 10 pounds each. The duties on dates in bulk (1 cent per pound) and on prepared and preserved dates (35 per cent ad valorem) are not affected by the amendment.

Oysters, oyster juice, or either in combination with other substances, packed in air-tight containers: Duty placed at 8 cents per pound including weight of immediate container.

Avocados, or avocado pears, also known as alligator pears: Duty placed at 15 cents per pound; made a separate item in the tariff.

Mangoes: Duty fixed at 15 cents per pound; this also is made a separate item.

Beans * * * dried: Duty raised to 3 cents per pound. The duty imposed by the House bill was $2\frac{1}{4}$ cents per pound and the rate under the Act of 1922 is $1\frac{1}{4}$ cents per pound.

Peas, green or unripe: Duty fixed at 3 cents per pound. The bill as passed by the House provided a duty of 2 cents per pound.

Sauerkraut: Duty raised to 50 per cent ad valorem. Under the House bill the duty was 35 per cent ad valorem, as in the Act of 1922.

Halibut, frozen: Duty fixed at 5 cents per pound. As reported by the Finance Committee the bill provided for 2 cents per pound.

Pimientos: The language of the pimiento item was amended by the insertion of "whole, cut, sliced, or otherwise reduced in size" after the word "pimientos," but no change was made in the rate, which remains at 6 cents per pound.

Pineapples: Duty fixed at 50 cents per crate of 2.45 cubic feet. The rate under the Act of 1922 is 35 cents per crate.

Mushrooms, otherwise prepared or preserved: Duty placed at 10 cents per pound on drained weight and 45 per cent ad valorem.

Crab meat, fresh or frozen, whether or not packed in ice, or prepared or preserved in any manner, including crab paste and crab sauce: Phrasing of item amended so as to make certain that the article will be dutiable at 15 per cent ad valorem and not be free under paragraph covering shell fish in free list.

Business Conditions

Commercial transactions during the week ended February 15, as reflected by data on check payments, were lower than in either the preceding week or the corresponding period of 1929, according to the weekly statement of the Department of Commerce. Steel-plant activity operations during the latest reported week were on a higher level than in the previous week but showed a decline from a year ago. Wheat receipts for the latest available week, as well as receipts of cotton, cattle and hogs, were lower than a year ago.

The general level of wholesale prices showed a decline as compared with both the previous week and the same week of 1929.

Bank loans and discounts at the end of the week were lower than at the end of the preceding week but showed a gain over last year. Business failures were less numerous than in the previous week but were larger than a year ago.

CAR LOADINGS

| | Total | Miscellaneous | Merchandise L. C. L. | Other |
|--------------------------------|---------|---------------|-------------------------|---------|
| Week ended February 8 | 886,581 | 308,689 | 241,426 | 336,466 |
| Preceding week | 898,894 | 306,045 | 238,106 | 354,743 |
| Corresponding week, 1929 | 935,881 | 329,632 | 248,825 | 357,424 |
| Corresponding week, 1928 | 906,177 | 318,598 | 240,556 | 347,023 |

Tentative Plans for Corn, Snap Bean, and Tomato Acreage for Canning

Reports received by the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates on the plans of canners of snap beans, sweet corn, and to-

matatoes, indicate that the acreage of these products for canning will be increased during 1930 by the following amounts: Snap beans, 10.2 per cent; sweet corn, 9.5 per cent; tomatoes, 17 per cent.

In giving out this report, issued under date of February 24, the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates states that it is by no means an estimate of the acreage that will actually be planted for the 1930 season, but it is merely a summary of the pre-season plans of the firms reporting to the Division. These plans are necessarily subject to various changes prior to the actual planting. It is felt, however, that this summary will help canners in the further adjustment and planning of their acreages for the coming season.

SNAP BEANS

| | 1928 Acres | 1929 Acres | Tentative plans 1930 acreage as per cent of 1929 Per cent |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---|
| Maine | 970 | 1,000 | 98 |
| New York | 6,940 | 8,140 | 100 |
| Pennsylvania | 1,190 | 1,450 | 121 |
| Indiana | 1,800 | 2,320 | 103 |
| Michigan | 2,950 | 3,840 | 125 |
| Wisconsin | 4,600 | 5,750 | 106 |
| Delaware | 670 | 670 | 132 |
| Maryland | 4,360 | 5,450 | 109 |
| South Carolina | 700 | 820 | 95 |
| Tennessee | 1,220 | 1,220 | 118 |
| Mississippi | 1,630 | 1,680 | 110 |
| Arkansas | 1,790 | 2,240 | 115 |
| Louisiana | 5,040 | 5,950 | 108 |
| Colorado | 1,690 | 2,300 | 116 |
| Utah | 1,020 | 1,250 | 106 |
| Washington | 700 | 1,050 | a 100 |
| Oregon | 650 | 750 | a 100 |
| California | 470 | 750 | a 100 |
| Other states b | 8,010 | 8,310 | 121 |
| U. S. total | 50,270 | 47,890 | 110.2 |

a No report, assumed to be same as last year.

b Alabama, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, Vermont, Virginia, Wyoming.

SWEET CORN

| | 1928 Acres | 1929 Acres | Tentative plans 1930 acreage as per cent of 1929 Per cent |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---|
| Maine | 10,770 | 14,850 | 95 |
| New Hampshire | 1,110 | 1,320 | 90 |
| Vermont | 1,940 | 2,370 | 88 |
| New York | 27,000 | 24,000 | 110 |
| Pennsylvania | 4,140 | 4,470 | 102 |
| Ohio | 27,910 | 27,700 | 111 |
| Indiana | 27,390 | 28,200 | 119 |
| Illinois | 58,500 | 62,220 | 113 |
| Michigan | 8,930 | 8,220 | 119 |
| Wisconsin | 14,780 | 14,780 | 105 |
| Minnesota | 33,000 | 43,000 | 108 |
| Iowa | 39,860 | 43,450 | 114 |
| Nebraska | 5,470 | 5,740 | 120 |
| Delaware | 4,000 | 3,900 | 98 |
| Maryland | 25,500 | 28,700 | 103 |
| Tennessee | 3,100 | 3,460 | 110 |
| Other states a | 2,700 | 3,250 | 108 |
| U. S. total | 305,990 | 331,070 | 109.5 |

a Colorado, Idaho, Kentucky, Montana, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Washington, Wyoming.

TOMATOES

| | 1928 Acres | 1929 Acres | Tentative plans 1930 acreage as per cent of 1929 Per cent |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|---|
| New York | 12,500 | 13,000 | 118 |
| New Jersey | 33,000 | 33,000 | 112 |
| Pennsylvania | 5,600 | 5,420 | 117 |
| Ohio | 10,400 | 10,930 | 120 |
| Indiana | 49,870 | 59,840 | 124 |
| Illinois | 5,180 | 5,440 | 120 |
| Michigan | 1,680 | 1,990 | 117 |
| Iowa | 4,810 | 4,570 | 123 |
| Missouri | 18,700 | 20,940 | 124 |
| Delaware | 13,300 | 13,500 | 103 |
| Maryland | 23,910 | 27,500 | 103 |
| Virginia | 8,000 | 8,840 | 111 |
| Kentucky | 3,500 | 4,820 | 114 |
| Tennessee | 10,220 | 9,300 | 130 |
| Arkansas | 19,000 | 22,000 | 114 |
| Colorado | 1,000 | 1,020 | 118 |
| Utah | 5,030 | 6,180 | 126 |
| California | 24,700 | 32,430 | 116 |
| Other states | 4,070 | 4,490 | 130 |

U. S. total 234,420 265,240 117.0

a Alabama, Kansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin.

Intended Acreage in Snap Beans for Truck Shipments

The acreage intended to be planted in snap beans for the spring crop in the early group of states is about 26 per cent above the revised estimate for this group in 1929 and 39 per cent above the average acreage during the five-year period, 1925-29. While the acreage intended to be planted in California is 29 per cent below last spring's acreage, increases of 35 and 33 per cent are reported for Florida and Texas. The acreage in this group in 1929 was 28 per cent of the total commercial acreage grown for market in the United States.

Wholesale Prices in January

The recession of wholesale prices which began in August, 1929, continued into January of the present year, as shown by information collected by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The Bureau's index number, with prices in 1926 as 100.0, stands at 93.4 for January compared with 94.2 for December, 1929, a decrease of slightly more than three-fourths of 1 per cent. This is the lowest level reached since April, 1922, when the index number was 93.2. Compared with January, 1929, a decrease of nearly 4 per cent is shown.

Farm Prices

The general level of farm prices continued to decline from December 15 to January 15, according to the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics, but was still slightly above a year ago. On January 15 the index of prices received by producers averaged 134 compared with 135 on December 15 and 133 in Janu-

ary last year. The general level of farm prices probably is now lower than on January 15, and somewhat lower than in February last year. During the next few months the level of farm prices is likely to remain below the corresponding period of 1929, when it was 136 in February, 140 in March, and 138 in April.

Employment in January

The U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics now makes monthly surveys of employment in eight major industrial groups—manufacturing, coal mining, metalliferous mining, quarrying, public utilities, trade, hotels, and canning. The total number of establishments reporting in all these groups for January, 1930, was 34,857, having in that month 4,792,669 employees whose combined earnings in one week were \$125,205,182. These figures show a decrease, to a considerable extent seasonal, of 2.6 per cent in employment, and a decrease of 5.4 per cent in pay-roll totals, as compared with December, 1929. The figures represent the number of employees on the pay rolls ending nearest the 15th of the month, this as a rule meaning the number actually employed several days in advance of the 15th. The figures of the several industries are not weighted according to the relative importance of each industry as shown by the U. S. Census, and therefore they represent only the employees in the establishments reporting. No comparison of these per cents of change in January, 1930, for all industrial groups combined, can be made with January a year ago, as adequate data over the 12-month period are not yet available except in manufacturing industries.

Truck Crop Shipments Increase

Heavier forwardings of a number of fruits and vegetables helped to push up the total for 23 products to 15,700 cars for the week ended February 15. This was still 1,600 less than output of a year ago.

Spinach movement was almost exclusively from Texas and increased to 445 cars, or about the same as at this time last winter. The carrot supply was mainly from California and Texas, with shipments increased to 345 cars.

Grapefruit was moving more actively from Florida, with light shipments also from Arizona. The Texas supply of grapefruit was fast diminishing. Total was 635 cars for the week.

Mexican green-pea imports increased somewhat to 172 cars, and only best-quality peas are now arriving.

Orange shipments also were heavier at nearly 1,700 cars, with California only slightly exceeding Florida. Sweet potato movement decreased to 370 cars last week.

Shipment of apples held around 1,640 cars for the week, with five cars from the West for every three cars of eastern fruit. Movement of Washington apples increased to 890 cars, while New York decreased to 230 and the Virginias shipped only 290 cars.

Tomato shipments from southern Florida jumped to 150 cars during the seven-day period, and Mexico increased to 235 cars. Cuba and the Bahamas together shipped 45 carloads.

Condition of the cabbage crop in 10 southern states at the opening of the month was only 60 per cent of normal, compared with 86 a year ago. Texas, Louisiana and Alabama showed especially low condition for this crop. Wisconsin was about finished, and New York shipments decreased further to 115 cars, while new stock from Florida increased to 130 and from Texas to 375 cars.

Condition of early strawberries in most states except Alabama is lower than last year. The week's movement totaled 83 cars.

| Commodity | CARLOT SHIPMENTS | | | Total this season to Feb. 15 | Total last season to Feb. 16 | Total last season |
|-------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| | Feb. 9-15 1930 | Feb. 2-8 1930 | Feb. 10-16 1929 | | | |
| Apples, total | 1,643 | 1,673 | 1,911 | 87,160 | 112,035 | 127,530 |
| Eastern states | 821 | 761 | 747 | 44,687 | 57,176 | 62,708 |
| Western states | 1,022 | 912 | 1,164 | 42,473 | 56,479 | 64,822 |
| Carrots: | | | | | | |
| 1930 season | 273 | 164 | 274 | 3,494 | 2,918 | 11,480 |
| 1929 season | 70 | 81 | 33 | 11,480 | 7,231 | 7,455 |
| Cabbage: | | | | | | |
| 1930 season | 519 | 374 | 763 | 2,864 | 3,529 | 43,657 |
| 1929 season | 148 | 334 | 179 | 43,657 | 38,421 | 38,804 |
| Cauliflower | 470 | 142 | 164 | 6,338 | 6,436 | 9,899 |
| Green peas: | | | | | | |
| Domestic | 15 | 3 | 6 | 493 | 471 | 5,102 |
| Imports | 172 | 166 | 110 | 1,754 | 888 | 1,351 |
| Mixed vegetables: | | | | | | |
| Domestic | 685 | 587 | 676 | 4,298 | 4,803 | 32,400 |
| Imports | 17 | 21 | 15 | 143 | 191 | 218 |
| Pears | 127 | 85 | 54 | 20,272 | 24,012 | 24,489 |
| Peppers: | | | | | | |
| Domestic | 15 | 12 | 31 | 327 | 191 | 3,287 |
| Imports | 23 | 27 | 43 | 233 | 318 | 566 |
| Spinach | 443 | 390 | 464 | 4,148 | 4,944 | 10,258 |
| String beans | 98 | 95 | 85 | 2,111 | 640 | 6,620 |
| Tomatoes: | | | | | | |
| Domestic | 147 | 95 | 296 | 474 | 1,742 | 31,929 |
| Imports | 281 | 207 | 260 | 2,629 | 3,089 | 6,261 |

Production Tax Modified on Sonora Green Peas

The production tax on green peas in the State of Sonora, which was increased on January 30, 1930, from the old rate of 5 cents per crate to about \$2.50 per crate, with a view to limit-

ing shipments until prices increased in the American market, was almost immediately modified by the Government so as to apply only to inferior produce, according to the American consul at Nogales.

According to the new decree the tax will be collected only on inferior peas. Peas grading five kernels or better to the pod are allowed to cross the border at the old tax of 5 cents a crate. Shipments passing through Nogales at the present time are of the best quality. Inferior peas are no longer being offered for export since the tax on them is prohibitive. The measure has been instrumental in checking the demoralization of the green pea market in the United States, according to the consul.

Navy Asks Bids on Canned Figs

The Navy Department is asking for bids on 120,000 pounds of canned figs, 30,000 pounds for delivery at Brooklyn, N. Y., 30,000 for delivery at Hampton Roads, 30,000 for delivery at Mare Island, Calif., and 30,000 for delivery at Bremerton, Wash. Bids are to be opened at 10.00 a. m. March 18, 1930, and copies of Schedule 2917 on which to submit bids may be obtained from the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C.

Fruit in Cold Storage

Cold storage holdings of fruit on February 1, as reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, were:

| Apples: | February 1, 1930 | February 1, 1929 | 5 year average |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Barrels | 1,316,000 | 1,678,000 | 2,355,000 |
| Boxes | 16,152,000 | 12,388,000 | 9,981,000 |
| Baskets | 4,007,000 | 3,204,000 | 2,084,000 |
| Pears: | | | |
| Boxes | 823,000 | 799,000 | 431,000 |
| Barrels | 3,000 | 10,000 | 15,000 |
| Frozen and preserved fruit (pounds) | 48,084,000 | 60,216,000 | 43,350,000 |

Louisville Census of Food Distribution

The results of the Louisville census of food distribution as revealed in a report just issued by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, showing what the people of that city ate, drank and smoked in 1928, indicate that in point of value meat was the leading food consumed, having a per capita value of \$27.27 for the year. The second food in value was made up of poultry and dairy products, which amounted to \$17.57 for each person. Fresh milk was the leading single item of food, the per capita consumption having a value of \$10.83. Per capita consumption of other food products as revealed by the study were as follows: Bakery goods, \$10.92; canned and bottled foods,

\$14.87; vegetables, \$8.88; fruits and nuts, \$4.96; candy and other confectionery, \$4.00; soft drinks, \$3.90; ice cream, \$3.77; fish and sea foods, \$1.24.

Grocery and delicatessen stores were the outlets for 59 per cent of the food sold, the survey disclosed, and were the principal outlets for all foods with the exception of prepared meals, and lunches, ice cream, and confectionery. Specialty food shops accounted for 16.16 per cent of sales; prepared meal outlets, 14.2 per cent, and refreshment outlets, 6.5 per cent.

Approximately 25 per cent of the groceries were sold on a credit basis. However, for those stores offering credit facilities approximately two-thirds of all the grocery business in Louisville in 1928 was on this basis.

Among other data shown in the report are food consumption by commodity groups; channels through which this food passed; expenses entailed in each type of store; per cent sold on credit; labor costs; size of inventories and stock turnover. In other words an analysis is presented of the wholesale, brokerage, and retail operations involved in this distribution of food products.

Copies of the report may be obtained for 15 cents each from any branch office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce or from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

Canadian Production of Canned Fruits and Vegetables in 1928

Production of canned fruits and vegetables in Canada during 1928 as compared with 1927, according to figures recently released by the Bureau of Statistics, Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce, was as follows:

| | 1928 | | 1927 | |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Fruits: | Cases | Value | Cases | Value |
| Apples | 177,282 | \$426,211 | 168,080 | \$285,463 |
| Cherries | 73,539 | 335,944 | 89,361 | 190,517 |
| Peaches | 128,886 | 404,614 | 77,671 | 315,495 |
| Pears | 810,525 | 946,811 | 145,193 | 476,764 |
| Plums | 161,999 | 343,867 | 42,274 | 107,663 |
| Raspberries | 47,529 | 234,549 | 36,847 | 294,693 |
| Strawberries | 40,367 | 232,677 | 36,136 | 269,667 |
| All other fruits | 99,583 | 371,600 | 79,236 | 316,099 |
| Vegetables: | | | | |
| Beans, green or wax | 216,402 | 648,945 | 181,205 | 397,697 |
| Beans, baked | 1,246,296 | 2,336,946 | 1,051,243 | 2,132,000 |
| Corn | 617,646 | 2,806,446 | 595,331 | 1,477,444 |
| Peas | 1,082,606 | 2,536,556 | 964,079 | 2,460,839 |
| Tomatoes | 1,664,956 | 4,248,549 | 1,562,682 | 2,769,969 |
| All other vegetables | 265,694 | 571,245 | 184,680 | 385,184 |
| Canned soups | 468,245 | 1,890,612 | 304,569 | 1,014,686 |
| Canned chicken | 4,800 | 33,901 | 6,917 | 73,439 |